

# HUNGARIAN OPHTHALMOLOGY

## PAST AND PRESENT

BY

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The Eye-Clinic N<sup>o</sup> I of the Royal Hungarian University of Science at Budapest was founded in 1801 with six beds only. From 1770 to 1783 Joseph Plenck, with the special permission of the authorities, gave courses of lectures on ophthalmology from his own notes. His successor, George Stahly (1783—1802) taught not only ophthalmology but also surgery and obstetrics.

At that time Guillaume le Fébure, Baron de St. Ildefont, Court Physician to Louis XVI, came to Hungary and delivered lectures on ophthalmology.

In 1816 Theophilus Fabiny was appointed professor-in-ordinary. Thus he was the first professor in ordinary of ophthalmology, for Joseph Beer, who had acted in the capacity of professor-extraordinary at Vienna since 1812, did not become professor-in-ordinary until 1818.

In 1830, when the medical faculty was housed in an old convent the ophthalmological clinic consisted of nine beds only. All the five clinics then existing in Budapest had no more than 54 beds. At that time (1830) my grand-father founded in Nagyvárad an eye-hospital.

In 1867 the clinic was given 24 beds.

In 1849 Gaspard de Lippay took over the direction of the clinic and brought the number of beds up to 40. In 1874 William Schulek, previously Arlt's assistant, was appointed professor-in-ordinary. In 1884 the clinic was removed to the central building of the faculty of medicine, where it contained 54 beds for patients as well as the scientific material and equipment which it had formerly lacked. The present head of the clinic took up his post there in 1904 as substitute-director, and in the following year he was appointed professor-in-ordinary. The Parliament in 1907 voted funds for the reconstruction of the institution. The new building was completed in thirteen months and opened in 1908. It has 94 beds, a library of scientific works, laboratories, and an dispensary, waiting-rooms, etc. A description of this edifice appeared about that time in the „Ophthalmoscope“ through the courtesy of the editor of that periodical. A smaller edifice, con-



taining 42 beds, contiguous to the main building,, devoted to infectious eye-disease cases, was opened in 1917.

To-day the Eye-clinic is staffed by 10 assistants, 22 nurses, 10 servants, 10 mechanics, stokers, and domestics.

The rooms of the hospital bear the names of the representative men of ophthalmological science; among them Bowman and Mackenzie, in order too keep permanently in the minds of the students the unfading glory of those two great English savants among others who have also added lustre to our science.

The number of cases treated has considerably increased during the last 25 years. In 1929 there were 27,000 new patients registered of whom 2159 were received into the clinic, and 1600 major operations performed in the period named.

Since 1905 the instruction has presented a practical as well as a theoretical character. Every day from 11 to 12.30 a. m. the students are present at the prescribed courses, which follow the presentation of the patients until noon. The courses form a systematic and complete statement of ophthalmology in all its branches, and the number of patients presented amounts to about a thousand a year. Moreover, in groups of ten, a different group each week, the students are present in turn in the morning (8 till 9 a. m.) at the operations and in the afternoon (5 til 6 p. m.) they visit the patients. They also draw up reports of the clinical observations. The groups are not more in number so that each student may be able to follow the details of the operations and the findings at the visits.

Besides the professional courses, 3 private docents hold free lectures at the clinic: on the pathology of the eye, the diagnosis of affections of the eyes, and eye surgery. Finally, a valuable library besides a well equipped laboratory, are at the disposal of all who wish to make personal researches.

Ophthalmology has now a second chair at Budapest University with a new clinic containing 80 beds; while at our other three Universities (at Szeged, Debrecen and Pécs) each have a chair of ophthalmology with an eye-clinic.

In the teaching of ophthalmology at Budapest, besides 2 ordinary professors, 1 extraordinary and 4 private docents take part, who are consulting surgeons at different hospitals.

The number of hospital beds at the service of eyepatients has increased the last ten years. Today, in the 5 university-clinics now existing, 474 beds; in the State ophthalmological hospital 170 beds; in the ophthalmological department of the general hospitals 570 beds; in all 1200 beds are at the disposal for eye cases.





JOANNES THEOPHILUS FABINI  
1791—1847  
IN REG. UNIVERSITATE HUNGARICA  
PROFESSOR PUBLICUS ORDINARIUS: 1816—1847.



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*G. Grosz*

1798—1858.







THE EYE-HOSPITAL, FOUNDED BY FR. GRÓSZ M. D. IN 1830 AT NAGYVÁRAD.







THE EYE-CLINIC NO I. OF THE ROYAL HUNGARIAN PÉTER PÁZMÁNY  
UNIVERSITY AT BUDAPEST, FOUNDED IN 1801, REBUILT IN 1908.

